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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - Secretary Rice to Europe -
Alleged CIA Secret Prisons
Iraq
U.S. Military Deployment in Eastern Europe

PARIS - Thursday, December 08, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

Secretary Rice to Europe - Alleged CIA Secret Prisons
Iraq
U.S. Military Deployment in Eastern Europe

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

Front pages and editorials focus on the latest controversy

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involving Interior Minister Sarkozy and France's history as a colonial power. But articles continue to report on Secretary Rice's visit and the controversy over alleged CIA flights and prisons. Le Monde carries the story on its front page. President Bush's latest speech on Iraq is analyzed in Le Figaro. In regional L'Alsace, the editorial comments on the latest U.S. military base in Romania, "a strategy that is sure to accentuate Putin's paranoia." (See Part C) Regional L'Alsace also reports on Secretary Rice's remarks in Kiev about torture: "In Kiev, Secretary Rice insisted on the fact that the U.S. did not authorize either torture, nor treatments that are debasing, in an attempt to pass on a message which is not going through easily."

Le Monde carries an op-ed by U.S. Ambassador to NATO Victoria Nuland entitled "New Horizons for NATO." "North America, Europe, NATO and the EU have a major role to play together and separately for our future and to promote freedom. It is when we are united that our efforts are most effective."

France's Environment Minister Nelly Olin pens an op-ed in Le Figaro entitled: "Climate: It Is Not Too Late." "The challenge we are facing can be met. But it requires commitment and a strong mobilization. And the truth is that new options and new actors are needed. Developing nations must be committed. We also need the commitment of the U.S. President Bush's refusal to sign Kyoto puts us in a delicate position. Research and new technologies is fine, but we also need economic incentives. It is a good thing that the States from the North Eastern corridor are preparing a system of exchange for emission quotas and that California is committed to reducing gas emissions." President Chirac who addressed the Montreal COP-11 conference via DVC is quoted in Les Echos: "We need exemplary international cooperation within a re-enforced multilateral and long-term system."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

Secretary Rice to Europe - Alleged CIA Secret Prisons

"Europe Embarrassed About CIA Flights"

Alexandrine Bouilhet in right-of-center Le Figaro (12/08): "Ever since it was revealed, the controversy has been embarrassing European governments. Yesterday in Brussels it was discreetly mentioned, but despite Washington's justifications, the tone remained courteous. Most Europeans chose to adopt a low profile on the issue in order not to offend the 'iron lady,' especially, and according to a diplomat from the 'Old Europe' since most governments were probably aware of what was going on and since intelligence

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services are cooperating in the fight against terrorism.' This is exactly what Secretary Rice alluded to in her statement before leaving the U.S. . Embarrassed or taken by surprise, European governments have yet to admit to anything that might be compromising, hoping the story will go away. Meanwhile, legal investigations in Europe may add to their embarrassment, with questions about who knew, and who knew what. Legally, some governments may be liable for complicity in abductions or acts of torture. Even if in matters of national security, proof is always difficult to get."

"The EU Plans to Investigate"

Jean-Pierre Stroobants in left-of-center Le Monde (12/08):

"Rice's contention that the U.S. has used only legal means, which exclude torture, in its fight against terrorism, did not elicit an official reaction from the European Commission: this is probably a way for Brussels to signify its skepticism and its dissatisfaction. Unofficially, Brussels considers that Secretary Rice did not answer the questions put to her. But several European experts believe that the investigations into alleged CIA secret prisons will be very difficult. The CIA probably closed said prisons the minute the information was leaked."

Iraq

"Bush Says Reconstruction in Iraq Is Progressing"

Philippe Gelie in right-of-center Le Figaro (12/08): "Hoping that repetition will have an effect, President Bush gave his latest speech on Iraq demonstrating a new approach to his 'strategy for victory,' and hoping to convince public opinion. The new communications strategy is the work of Peter Feaver who believes that support for the war depends on the level of confidence in public opinion that there is indeed a chance for victory. Hence the repetition on the part of the Bush administration on the progress achieved in Iraq and the importance of what is at stake. But to date, this new public relations offensive has born few results."

U.S. Military Deployment in Eastern Europe

"A Foothold in Romania for U.S. Army"

Patrick Fluckiger in regional L'Alsace (12/08): "It is, as always, in the name of the fight against terrorism that the Americans are setting up military bases near Romanian oil fields, and on Russia's doorstep. This strategy is sure to accentuate the paranoia expressed by Putin, who never misses an opportunity to say that the West is looking to destabilize his country. The Kremlin will also take this opportunity to come down even harder on any democratic ambition exhibited by

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those Republics that still remain faithful to him. Eastern nations which play into the hands of the Americans in this way contribute to maintaining the tension that had supposedly disappeared with the Cold War." STAPLETON

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